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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 007953

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/22/2015

TAGS: PREL PHUM BN BM FR UNSC

SUBJECT: FRENCH SUPPORT BRINGING BURMA BEFORE THE UNSC

REF: A. STATE 211115 B. PARIS 7506

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Josiah B. Rosenblatt. Reas
ons 1.4b,d

Poloff informed French MFA on November 21 about USG assessment that the necessary nine votes were in hand to move for a UNSC briefing on the situation in Burma (Ref A). IO desk officer Benoit Guidée reiterated French support for the initiative. Guidée repeated the French lacked certainty about how Benin would vote, given previously reported pressure from Algeria and Tanzania to adopt a common African position in opposition (Ref B). However, if Tanzania was now on board, as the USG calculated, then Benin could join, without reservation, in calling for the briefing.

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Stapleton